

### **REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Claims 40-47, 73-77 and 85-89 have been canceled, and Claims 90-104 have been added. Claims 90-104 are presented for examination. These claim amendments do not necessitate the payment of any additional fees for excess claims.

Claims 90-104 differ from previously-cited Frailong U.S Patent No. 6,496,858. In particular, they recite a centralized approach to configuration management of plural devices, where configuration information is returned from each device back to a central configuration storage. In contrast, Frailong discloses a distributed approach to configuration in which there is no central configuration storage, and in which configuration information from devices is not returned to any central configuration storage.

### **Conclusion**

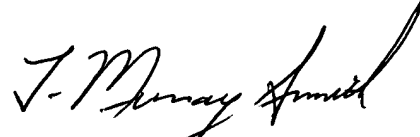
Applicants respectfully request further and favorable consideration of the present application. If the Examiner believes that examination of this application may be advanced in

Appl. No. 10/005,396  
Preliminary Amendment Accompanying RCE

Attorney Docket No. 29484.30  
Customer No. 27683

any way by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at 972-739-8647.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Murray Smith", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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